

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, OEXC, PE
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: PROGRAM FOR PROPOSED LEADER GRANTEE

REF: LIMA 2600, LIMA 3226

1. WE HAVE TWO MORE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PROPOSED LEADER GRANT PROGRAM OF PERUVIAN VICE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR GENERAL MANUEL ZEGARRA CIGUERO. AS BACKGROUND, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE CHARGE'S APRIL 20 CALL ON ZEGARRA (SECOND REFTEL) WAS TO INQUIRE FORMALLY ABOUT TWO PERUVIANS THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INDICATES ARE BEING DETAINED BY THE GOP. ZEGARRA PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE CASES AND GIVE US A FORMAL RESPONSE TO RELAY TO AI. HE ALSO AGREED TO OUR SUGGESTION OF A ROUTINE WHEREBY HE WILL PERSONALLY RECEIVE FROM US AND REPLY TO FURTHER INQUIRIES OF THIS TYPE. IN DISCUSSING HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY, ZEGARRA INDICATED SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, WHILE OBSERVING THAT THERE ARE "HUMAN DUTIES" (DEBERES) AS WELL AS HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, PERU IS NOT COUNTED AMONG THE HUMAN RIGHTS "PROBLEM" COUNTRIES, AND WE HAVE BEEN WORKING QUIETLY TO HELP AVOID ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE IN THIS AREA, AND UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PRESENT MINISTER AND OF ZEGARRA IT HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS (SEE LIMA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2231 REPORTING AMBASSADOR'S RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER.) ZEGARRA HIMSELF WILL CONTINUE TO BE A KEY CONTACT FOR US ON THESE MATTERS. EMBASSY THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT PROPOSED IV OFFERS IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO US TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS INTERESTS.

3. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT AS PART OF ZEGARRA'S PROGRAM IN

WASHINGTON HE MEET WITH HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS COORDINATOR
DERIAN FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. DEPARTMENT
MAY HAVE FURTHER THOUGHTS ALONG THESE LINES FOR AMPLIFYING
ZEGARRA'S PROGRAM.

4. IN ADDITION, AS NOTED IN LIMA 2600, ZEGARRA WISHES TO VISIT
A MODERN PENAL INSTITUTION. SUCH A VISIT WILL BE USEFUL
TO HIM IN CONNECTION WITH HIS MINISTRY'S PLANS FOR PRISON
REFORM (BOTH IMPROVED PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND BETTER TRAINING
OF GUARDS IN HUMANE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS) IN PERU. A
PROJECT OF REFORM FOR LURIGANCHO PRISON, THE PRINCIPAL PENAL
FACILITY IN THIS COUNTRY, WAS ANNOUNCED JUST LAST WEEKEND.
SUCH A VISIT MAY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO
PROTECT U.S. PRISONERS HERE, MOST OF WHOM ARE HELD AT LURIGANCHO.
WE SPECIFICALLY SUGGEST THAT THE U.S. PENAL INSTITUTION VISITED
SHOULD HAVE A STRONG AND PROGRESSIVE PRISON REHABILITATION PROGRAM,
SINCE BOTH ZEGARRA AND HIS MINISTER ARE INTERESTED IN
REHABILITATION.
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